

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Goose Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 8-9, 2014	Ft. Pierre
	Public Hearing	August 7, 2014	Ft. Pierre
	Finalization	August 7-8, 2014	Ft. Pierre

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

#### Season Dates:

##### Light Geese

Statewide: September 27 – December 21, 2014

##### Canada Geese (and Brant)

Unit 1: October 1 – December 16, 2014

Unit 2: November 3, 2014 – February 15, 2015

Unit 3: January 10-18, 2015

##### White-fronted Geese

Statewide: September 27 – December 7, 2014

#### Daily Limits:

Canada geese

Unit 1: 8

Unit 2: 4

Unit 3: 4

Light geese: 50

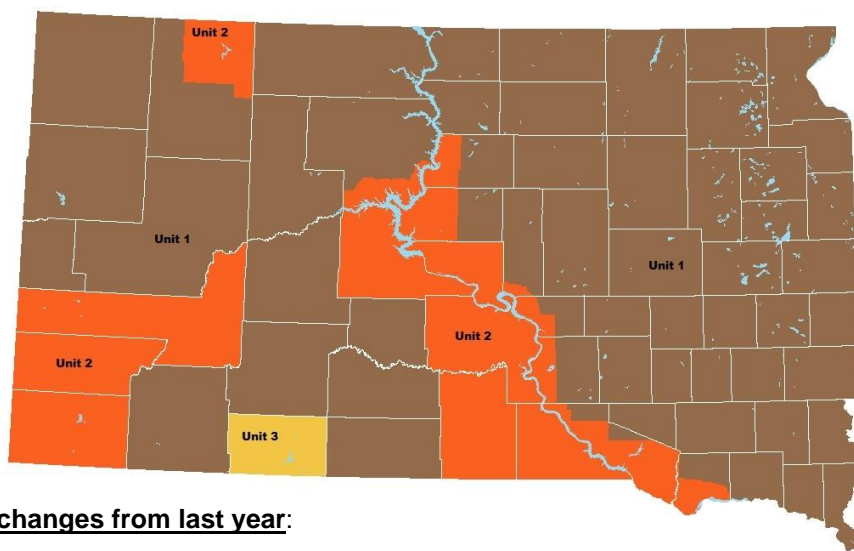
White-fronted goose: 2

#### Possession Limits:

Light geese: Unlimited

All other geese: Three times the daily limit.

### Canada Goose Units



#### Recommended changes from last year:

1. Increase the daily bag limit for light geese from 20 to 50.
2. Change Unit 2 so the season is open for 105 days preceding the Sunday closest to February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had approved this daily bag limit increase in 2013 after South Dakota had finalized the 2013 goose seasons. In an attempt to meet population goals, it is necessary to use all available management tools.

Changing the season dates for the Unit 2 goose unit as described above would result in Unit 2 opening on a Monday and the season closing on a Sunday (current structure opens on a Saturday and ends on a Friday). Federal framework allows for this season to end on the Sunday nearest February 15<sup>th</sup>. This change would provide hunters with an additional weekend to hunt later in the season when Canada geese are staging on the Missouri River and urban ponds and feeding in fields. See attached chart which displays Canada goose harvest from 2008-2013 for the first five days of the season compared to the last five days of the season on the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Area north of Pierre.

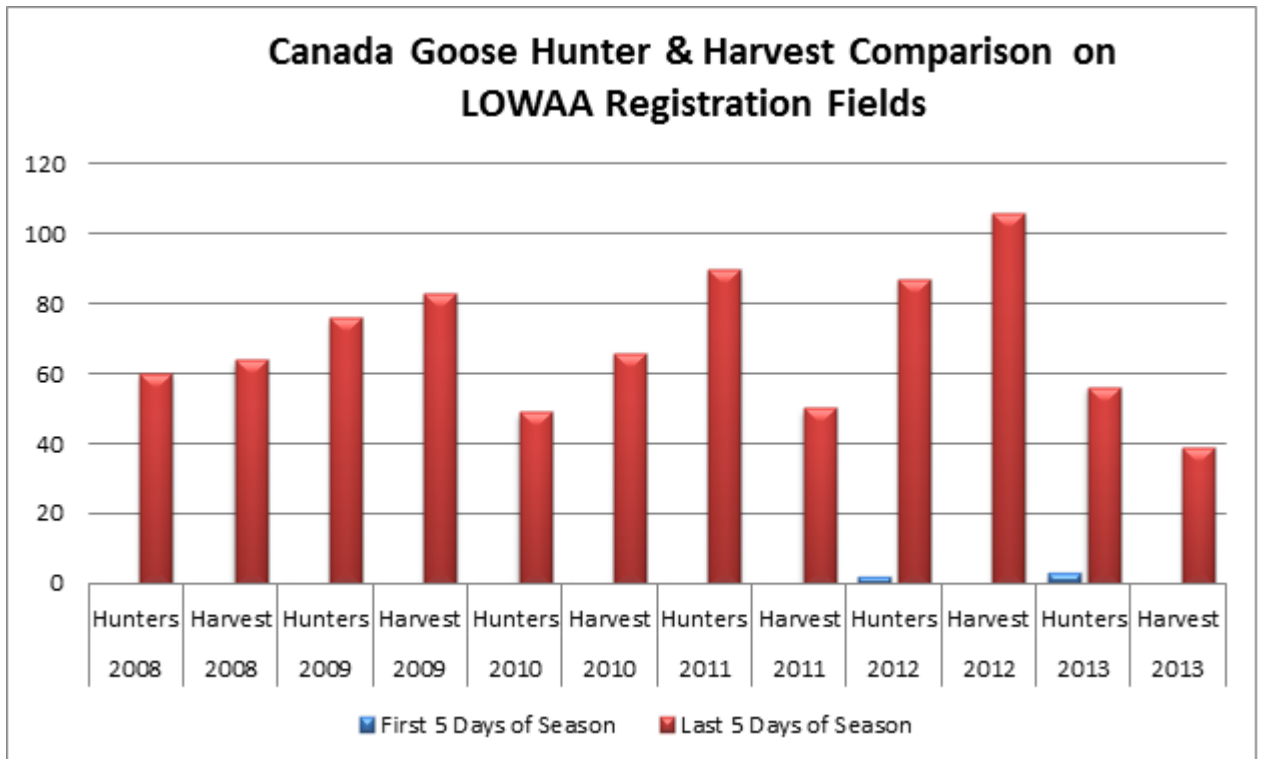
APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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### Current Season Dates

Hunting Season	Start	End
2014-2015	01-Nov	13-Feb
2015-2016	31-Oct	12-Feb
2016-2017	29-Oct	10-Feb
2017-2018	04-Nov	16-Feb
2018-2019	03-Nov	15-Feb
2019-2020	02-Nov	14-Feb
2020-2021	31-Oct	12-Feb
2021-2022	30-Oct	11-Feb
2022-2023	29-Oct	10-Feb
2023-2024	04-Nov	16-Feb
2024-2025	02-Nov	15-Feb

### Proposed Season Dates

Hunting Season	Start	End
2014-2015	03-Nov	15-Feb
2015-2016	02-Nov	14-Feb
2016-2017	31-Oct	12-Feb
2017-2018	06-Nov	18-Feb
2018-2019	05-Nov	17-Feb
2019-2020	04-Nov	16-Feb
2020-2021	02-Nov	14-Feb
2021-2022	01-Nov	13-Feb
2022-2023	31-Oct	12-Feb
2023-2024	06-Nov	18-Feb
2024-2025	04-Nov	17-Feb



Year	Canada Geese			Light Geese (fall season only)			White-fronted Geese		
	Res Hunters	NR Hunters	Geese Harvested	Res Hunters	NR Hunters	Geese Harvested	Res Hunters	NR Hunters	Geese Harvested
2009	12,927	1,986	104,453	4,298	733	55,823	902	240	1,534
2010	13,552	2,198	129,628	4,031	551	36,259	985	261	891
2011	13,376	2,167	107,537	3,614	883	42,657	973	288	1,010
2012	13,715	2,277	98,872	4,113	726	55,171	1,685	440	3,485
2013	12,004	2,160	75,677	3,747	641	53,322	1,098	224	1,891

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_